



The Navajo Nation Council — Office of the Speaker

Contact: Joshua Lavar Butler, Communications Director

Phone: (928) 871-6384

Cell: (928) 255-2946

Fax: (928) 871-7255

joshualavarbutler@navajo.org

joshualavarbutler@yahoo.com

www.navajonationcouncil.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Housing grant will help seven chapters served by Navajo Utah Commission

Recipients selected by chapters according to housing need, priority lists already devised

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Intergovernmental Relations Committee of the Navajo Nation Council passed a resolution today that will funnel a \$231,000 housing grant for the Olene Walker Housing Loan Fund. The grant is from the Utah Department of Community and Culture, and the Division of Housing and Community Development to address the housing needs of seven Navajo Nation chapters served by the Navajo Utah Commission. The chapters include Teecnospos, Aneth, Red Mesa, Mexican Water, Dennehotso, Oljato and Navajo Mountain.

The resolution, Tracking No. 0384-10, sponsored by Francis Redhouse (Teecnospos), was approved by the committee by a vote of 9-0 and now authorizes the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate its intent.

Clarence Rockwell, executive director for the Navajo Utah Commission, explained that the housing grant was awarded last fall and it took nearly nine months to get it accepted by the Navajo Nation and to get contracting issues resolved. Rockwell said the funds should now be available and funds would be disbursed equally at \$30,000 per chapter with allocations restricted to procurement of building materials and construction supplies.

The funds will be disbursed as grants, despite the title of the program which disseminated the funds – the Olene Walker Housing Loan Fund. The program made an exception to disburse the funds as grants, rather than loans because of the low income population that is served by the Navajo Utah Commission.

Rockwell noted that recipients are selected by the chapters according to housing need and priority lists have already been devised. Approximately seven families will be assisted with housing.

"The grant is a recurring thing, once we complete this project, we may be eligible to request another appropriation," Rockwell said. "We assisted seven families before and we have been doing this for several years now."

"I would like to thank the state of Utah Housing Program and the Olene Walker Housing Loan Fund for assisting Utah Navajos," Rockwell added. "They have all taken an active interest in our area."

The Olene Walker Housing Loan Fund program was named in recognition of Olene Walker, she was the 15th governor of the state of Utah and the state recognized her strong advocacy for housing needs. The mission of the Olene Walker Housing Loan fund is to support quality affordable housing options that meet the needs of Utah's individuals and families.

The Navajo Utah Commission was established by the Intergovernmental Relations Committee to develop and maintain efficient governmental services to the Navajo people residing on the "Utah Strip" of the Navajo Nation.

For more information, contact the Navajo Utah Commission at 435-651-3508.

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